Biology (Linear)

OCR: Course Code H420
Contact: Mrs K Rossiter

Course Outline:

A-level Biology provides a flexible approach to teaching. The specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of biology. Teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics, and they are assessed through the written papers.

The course content is split into six modules:

Module 1 – development of practical skills in Biology. Throughout years 12 and 13 pupils will complete a total of 12 compulsory practicals, which will allow them to apply their knowledge from a range of module areas.

Module 2 – Foundations in Biology introduces key concepts such as cell structure, biological molecules, nucleotides and nucleic acids, enzymes, biological membranes and cell division.

Module 3 – This unit builds on the core knowledge of module 2 to introduce exchange and transport of substances in animals and plants.

Module 4 – starts by looking at diseases and the immune system then moves on to look at biodiversity, classification of species and evolution.

Module 5 – this unit is typically undertaken in year 13 and looks at communication, homeostasis, and energy. We will look in detail at the processes of photosynthesis and respiration as well as neuronal and hormonal communication.

Module 6 – In the final unit we introduce the idea of cellular control, genetics including cloning and biotechnology then moving onto ecosystems, populations, and sustainability.

Assessment Framework:

This A-level is assessed at the end of year 13. There will be 3 examination papers assessing the work covered in both years 12 and 13.

The assessment of practical skills is achieved through completion of a range of experiments. This leads to a Practical Endorsement which will appear on the student's certificate as a separately reported result, alongside the overall grade for the qualification. The Practical Endorsement does not count towards the final grade.

Course Entry Requirements:

GCSE Biology grade 6 and Maths grade 6
or
GCSE Double Science grade 6,6 and Maths grade 6.

A grade 5 may be considered but the final decision will be with the sixth form team.

Why Study A-level Biology?

Students who take A-level Biology can go on to study veterinary science, medicine, optometry, psychology, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, physiotherapy, sports science, microbiology, forensic science, biophysics, genetics, neuroscience, botany, zoology, ecology, environmental science and, of course, biology.

Be The Best You Can Be